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Grayson, KY 41143

Q. - Michael Downs
A. - Michael Cooke

Q. Date of birth?

A. 1/14/48

Q. Where were you born?

A. In Grayson.

Q. How large of a family do you come from?

A. I have one brother and one sister.

Q. What was your father's occupation?

A. He's a florist and he's a farmer too.

Q. Are you married?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any children?

A. Two

Q. You are employed with whom?

A. Carter County Board of Education.

Q. You're a teacher?

A. Yes.

Q. What do you teach?

A. Reading right now. Social Studies is my field.

Q. Did you go to high school in Grayson?

A. Yes, I graduated in 1966.

Q. 1966, that was about the time the American troop build-up began in Vietnam. Were you aware of that while you were in high school.

A. Not really.

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Q. You didn't know anything about Vietnam at all?

A. Not really.

Q. What did you do right after you got out of high school?

A. I went to school at Morehead for 2 years -- up to fall of '68, then I dropped out of school and went to work at a Steel Mill.

Q. What did you major in at Morehead?

A. I was in pre-law.

Q. You went 2 years and then dropped out and went to work. Why did you quit?

A. Personal problems.

Q. And you got a good job also?

A. Well not that so much. I had a problem with a girl and it shook me up a little bit so I dropped out of school to get my head straightened up. And I lost my student permit.

Q. That was in '68?

A. Technically, I think I officially dropped out just before the end of the semester in '68.

Q. Were you drafted or did you join?

A. I was drafted. July of 1969.

Q. What about the draft, do you think it was fair?

A. Not at all.

Q. Why do you say that?

A. Well, the people who couldn't afford to go to school, for whatever reason, were drafted and in most cases it was people from low income families.

Q. So you think maybe that politics had a little bit to do with it?

A. In my opinion, yes.

Q. I know we talked to Tony Pope and he said the same thing. So you went in the Army of July 69, when did you go to Vietnam?

A. December of '69.

Q. About 6 months then?

A. Yes, basic, 3 days, AIT, 5 days, and Vietnam.

Q. Where did you take your AIT at?

A. Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Q. Was that your mos?

A. Yes

Q. How did you feel when you found out you were going?

A. Well, I really didn't know until I got out of AIT and during the whole process -- I was offered OCs in basic and I didn't take it because if you OCS you went straight to Vietnam Infantry. In AIT if you went to OCS you were forward observer straight to Vietnam. So I sweated it out until the last week of AIT and we had orders for Germany and three days before we were supposed to leave they cut me orders for Vietnam.

Q. What a shock.

A. Not really, I guess in the back of your mind you knew you were going all the time.

Q. Did you go on leave before they sent you over?

A. I had, I think a five or six day leave.

Q. Is that all?

A. Yes. A lot of people were going (AWOL). I don't think they were taking too many chances.

Q. Where did you come in country at in Vietnam.

A. Ben Hoa.

Q. How did you feel when you got off the plane?

A. Feel, what do you mean. You step off the plane and everything smells like shit. The whole country stinks like shit. It grabs you.

Q. You got off at Ben Hoa, what did you do then, where did they send you?

A. We had two days there and I got shipped out to Chu Lai.

Q. Was that a replacement company there?

A. I guess. We went to Chu Lai, then we had a training, then they shipped us up to the boonies.

Q. You didn't go over with a unit then? You got over there, you were seperated and pulled out as a replacement then?

A. More or less.

Q. That's one of the big criticisms of the way we fought the war was that entire units weren't sent over and kept together like they were in World War II. You were just all thrown together and then pulled out randomly. Do you think it would have made any difference.

A. Morale wise, probably it would have been worse (). That's my own personal feeling I had two boys that went through basic at Fort Sill with me and went through AIT with me. Then we were all sent over at the same time and although we weren't in the same company at each place, we were there and we saw each other. We all went to Chu Lai and then we separated into different batteries and didn't see each other really until we got ready to come home. I saw one of them twice and the other 3 times. I don't know, I don't think I would want to get real close.

Q. Really the enemy wasn't the Viet Cong or the Vietnamese. You were struggling to make that year and get out. What was the average age of your group?

A. I'd say I was one of the older people, I think I was about 21, most of them were 18 or 19.

Q. You say you got about a week's training after you got over there?

A. It was just a basic skills thing. They used gas on you -- gas mask -- booby traps that was about it. They just had you there for a week, I guess to say you went through some kind of training and also to give them time to put your somewhere.

Q. But there was no indoctrination about the history of the country or why we were there?

A. At some point in time I think there was some sort of film shown.

Q. You didn't have any personal feelings about it then, why the United States was in a place like that?

A. Well again, after a time I felt like I was a coward because I didn't go to Canada. That's how mixed up it was. What I was doing here I didn't realize but I was putting in my time, going through an honorable discharge and I was going to try to stay alive and keep both my legs and that was about it. Now after I'd gone over and been there for awhile it was a different story.

Q. So you were in a place called Chu Lai and what outfit was that.

A. Now, I went to 1/15th artillery, 198th light infantry brigade and we were on a fire base L2 Stinson. So we moved around quite a bit. That was my home fire base. We moved all the way around it quite a bit.

Q. So you stayed in the field about all the time?

A. Yes, our fire base even there were no roads to it. One boy got wounded, so I got transferred, I guess I'd been in the country 8 or 9 months and I got transferred back to our headquarters which was still a part of the fire base. I was a battery clerk for six months. I extended so I could get out when I got back.

- Q. I was going to ask you if you saw any combat. I assume you did then if you almost got overrun. I won't ask you what a typical day was because there wasn't anything typical but what type operations did you all do?
- A. We were really supportive. We'd fly out in the middle of the field on top of the md. We'd set up and shoot some support then it'd start getting hot and we'd pack up and they'd come in and pull us out. So other than the times, well there were a couple of times when they tried to overrun us, the fire bases that we were on, that was really the only time that we were _____ as far as seeing any action.
- Q. Did they fly you out frequently? Did you go out in a supportive role fairly often?
- A. About once a month.
- Q. And how long did you stay, usually?
- A. It depended. Might stay 2 weeks ???? might stay 4 days. It depended on what was going on. It was funny, we were on a L 2. I don't think I saw a women the first four months I was in the country. There were no villages close by or anything. You could see things miles off in the distance but nothing right there close. We had one area that we went to down at Trabong, there was a 155 battery down there and they had a French headquarters. They had bunkers in the hill, concreted that whole thing out and they had flush toilets, had refrigerators, it was really nice. And also in a hill right there they had three whore houses. So when there was a jump going down there everybody volunteered.
- Q. Did you have a sense of bewilderment, at there in the middle of nowhere and 2] years old?
- A. I don't think anybody knew what was going on. It was funny, it was really funny because we'd have less than 20 minutes every time we went on a jump, they'd come up and say you've got twenty minutes to pull the gun and get everything together and get down to the pad. Our gunnery sergeant didn't know where we were going, our captain didn't know where we were going until 30 minutes before they took us. Supposedly the Italian commander was the only one that knew. Wherever we went, 5 times out of 6, whenever we sat down there'd be kids out there selling us cokes.
- Q. I think the ones that we've talking to in the Infantry have said about the same things as far as your search and destroy, you go out and you take a village and after you take it, you leave it and they come right back in.

Cooke Are you a veteran? Where were you at?

Downs I was in Vietnam too. Our basecamp was in the Michelin rubber plantation. Ted offensive and . . .

Cooke Route 68?

Downs Cu Chi, Dai Tang, Tay Nink.
Now, you call it a jump -- that was where they came in on a helicopter and took out to the field and left you?

- A. Yes. They'd take us out and set us up on a mountain, field or wherever. We'd shoot support. Just about every area was covered -- crossroads, artillery, but there were certain places where the mountains were so high, especially down in Traubong valley that they couldn't hit it and fire close support, so they'd bring a couple of small jumps down just to cover that area _____ and then fly us back out.
- Q. What type of guns did you all fire?
- A. 105 mm.
- Q. What did you think about your weapons, were they fairly effective? I'm asking because most of the people we talk to carry m-16's and we get a lot of stories about m-16's.
- A. If you keep them clean there were.
- Q. Did you ever have any close calls when you were out?
- A. Not really.
- Q. They just weren't ever that close to you? I'm sure you got mortored back every once in a while didn't you?
- A. We got three direct hits on our guns one time. We had a few guys killed. But other than that, it wasn't too awful bad, because they were infantry with us.
- Q. How often?
- A. _____
- Q. Yes, but it didn't happen very often though?
- A. Oh we got mortars all the time but the only time we had direct fire was when they would try to overrun our fire base.
- Q. When they mortared you like that, would they just kind of fire a few shells and then leave?
- A. Well, we had a "friendly village" that was about, less than a click away. It started off when I was in the country there was only one _____ maybe two and then it increased to about 5 or 6. And about once a month we'd take mortar fire. But we couldn't shoot at anything unless we had a clearance first.
- Q. There was "no fire" zone?
- A. Well, more or less, especially when there was a truce going on. We were on top of a mountain and we saw nothing moving all day. Then they'd have their Christmas truce or whatever and you'd see 50 or 100 people out working their way towards the hill you know, all day long and that night you'd get the shit kicked out of you. But that hill they wouldn't let us shoot at it and we had a couple of people on the gun till the sun came out then when we started taking mortar fire they just kind of unloaded on the village and just stopped. That was our biggest problem -- the silliness of it. We had a --

we were on Stimson and we got socked in they couldn't get anything out to us at all. The hellicopter couldn't come in it was so bad. We went for three weeks without a resupply. We've been used to hot food and all that. So we're eating cigarettes, hadn't had clean clothes for three weeks and we all smelled like crap. Mud up to our rearends, mud everywhere and no place to keep dry. So the first ship that comes in we get a new first seargeant and the first thing he does is he looks around and orders a case of boot polish, we're going to get these boots polished! He left ~~and~~ the next day though. He got up the next morning and there was a (claymoore) looking him right in the face when he came out of his bunker. He went back to headquarters in Bayonet.

Q. You think he took the hint?

A. I don't know he said he could run it better from back there.

Q. I meant to ask you what area you were in, what corp was it, do you know. What part of the country?

A. It was just soutside of Chu Lai about 15 miles.

Q. What kind of terrain was it?

A. Small mountains, Montagnards.

Q. Yes, not the thick jungle.

A. Not so much. They'd pretty well cleaned out the area there wasn't much left. You could see where maybe some stuff used to be but it wasn't there anymore.

Q. I think I've got an idea where you were because one time, I don't remember which outfit it was either 198th or 199th, They had to come and get us out of Cambodia.

A. We went in 1970.

Q. This was earlier, back in 1968.

A. It was fall of '70 they went to Cambodia and we took 4 guns from our battery and were gone for 2 weeks.

Downs Q. Well they didn't tell us where we were but we figured it out when the Russian tanks started shooting at us. They dropped us in the only bare spot for miles and we like to never got out of there and they had to send in, I believe it was the 198th or 199th to get us out. We were in there for three days. I mean we didn't move a yard. Everybody talks about this strategy and how silly it was and useless -- what do you think we could have done differently?

A. Stayed out! It'd be like a German Army coming in to Kentucky, they might fight back, _____ at night. Then by day the same ones shining their shoes, bringing them food or what ever would be the same ones trying to kill them at night. There's no black and white to it, who is the enemy?

- Q. It was real frustrating not to know who it was, who you were fighting like you said the people coming into your camp during the day and working during the day are the same ones who are out there at night trying to kill you.
- A. When I was there --- think, I wasn't afraid they'd kill me I really wasn't. I'm a Christian and I really felt like I wasn't going to be killed but I was scared to death I was going to be mangled and I was probably in the country six months before I got over that and then after I extended my last four or five months was just the same, counting the days down and all that. But it wasn't getting killed it was just getting your leg blown off or an arm blown off on a boobey trap. Maybe on one of our rounds one of the guys who didn't care if the sun came up or not didn't tighten the end of it and just went in the ground and the next day go over it and it was a boobey trap.
- Q. You're talking about the ??
- A. 105 mm.
- Q. Really you're on an analogy there about the German Army coming into Kentucky. It was really a disadvantage not knowing the terrain.
- A. I think at the time that I was over there every square inch of Vietnam had been mapped out, had been put in grids, had been covered with artillery and infantry in the areas that they could be and I don't think you could cover it any better than it was covered. You could go to an area, sweep it clean come back the next week and there were ten guys hurt on the booby traps. It's ridiculous and the thing was we'd take a 25 battery and throw it away because it was dead and they'd dig it out of the hole with the shit and everything and use it, and they would get you with your own stuff.
- Q. Were you in very much contact with the Vietnamese people?
- A. A couple of times.
- Q. Did you form any opinions about them?
- A. I don't know. At the time possibly I hated all Vietnamese. Like down at Trabong, you'd go down and see all the kids scratching around in the junk trying to get something out and you'd feel sorry for them because somebody would be out there shooting them in the eye with a BB gun or whatever and you'd try to stop that. But the next week you'd see the C-rats or whatever that you gave, their mama would have them down town selling them or out where you're landing trying to sell the same stuff right back to you. So I don't know, its mixed feelings.
- Q. Do you think that just your average peasant really cared one way or another?
- A. No.
- Q. They were just trying to get along as best they could.

A. I know if I was in that situation, whoever happened to be there with all the guns and whatever one was bossing, I'd try to stay out of their way.

Q. Just try to get along as best you can and if the opportunity comes along to make a dollar you make it. Do you think it was really, for us, a no win situation? Do you think it was a mistake for us to get involved in the first place?

A. Well, it depends on how you look at it. It was a no win situation if you're talking about going into that particular war and planning to win the war I think it was a mistake, but it was a way to get rid of old equipment, it was a way to test new equipment. I guess we made a stand against communism if you want to say that, not that I believe the people who were fighting really understood all that.

Q. I want to ask you about your officers, how would you evaluate them, do you think they were competent?

A. I believe some of the NCO's were competent, but not the officers.

Q. Were they fairly young officers?

A. We had a lot of turnover, we lost a lot of first lieutenants and second lieutenants. But the captain of our battery used to be the cook. Are you talking about army or ??

Q. No, you immediate officers.

A. Regular Army, your senior NCO's were confident. Regular army a lot of my immediate supervisors or officers were incompetent because a lot of them never would have made that rank if it hadn't been for the war. We had people who were in their 40's that were captains and at the age they should have been majors or higher anyway and a lot of them were stuck in places where they shouldn't have been. The younger officers, I think maybe we trusted them but a lot of them were incompetent.

Q. I'm speaking of somebody who's had an artillery round or two fall practically right on-top of them. Where you have a guy called in that didn't know what to do. You hear an awful lot about the drug problems over there, did you.

A. I was in a situation where I didn't drink that much and I didn't use drugs at all, period. I never smoked marijuana. I guess I was kinda of innocent. Well I was a go-between. I kind of kept the regular army people that drank and all the people that used drugs -- I kept them off of each other. I was in a situation where I could at the last 5 or 6 months I was there I was NCO in charge of our battery in the absence of an officer, I was just a SPEC 5. I was in a situation where I could work with both sides and I didn't get involved one way or another. If anything I would be considered one of the alcoholics in there!

Q. Was there that much drug use?

- A. There were some people that were terribly addicted to drugs, but I don't believe that they were in a majority at all. I know there were maybe 6 or 7 that got on smack really bad, to the point that they couldn't function. But the other people -- in our situation we were limited to one beer a day so there wasn't anything going on, we were on the alert. We were out in the middle of nowhere and didn't have access to anything. As far as the dope and stuff, I guess people had access to it, but we were confined to such an area that everyone would know about it.
- Q. I think that's the general opinion that it wasn't that bad out in the field, in the forward areas as it was back in the rear. Really boredom caused most of it.
- A. Now, I saw a lot of drug abuse after I got back to the states. People that were in Vietnam. But, none of the people I was with, again, one or two -- what would happen is when a person would get in that shape they'd transfer them back to loading ammo or something. They usually got over it. They'd have a whole section of them together and have an understanding sergeant all he had to do was get his ammo out and if they could do that he'd pretty well let them go a lot. Then when they got back if they didn't ETS they got busted. They usually got busted anyway and hold you over for a day just to watch you _____.
- Q. Any blacks in your unit?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Several.
- A. Yes.
- Q. What about any racial problems?
- A. Well it was there. We had a lot of boys from West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky and a lot of them were rough. I guess like myself a hillbilly and they hadn't been around blacks that much and they didn't tolerate them too much. Then, there were blacks who were from the city and they were kind of chicken. But out on the fire bases and out in the fields we didn't have any problems. It was just like when we went back to Chu Lai then they'd form their own groups and some of the boys, white boys, would form their own groups.
- Q. Everybody's said about the same thing that once back in the larger base areas they would kind of pair off, but out in the field no trouble at all.
- A. I didn't have any troubles at all, I had two or three real good friends that were black, when I did go back to L2 Bayonet _____ I knew a lot of people around and it made a lot of difference. I could go into an area where it was all blacks and one or two whites and I wouldn't have any problems because I had a couple of friends _____. But four or five of the other boys from Kentucky would come in and there'd be a big fight. It could have been a lot worse I guess.

- Q. Were you aware that the sentiment at home was really switched around, everybody was against the war?
- A. I was completely cut off from communication from the U.S. from the time I went to Vietnam from the time I got out. There are a lot of things that I missed that I didn't find out about until 4 or 5 years later. I had no idea what was going on.
- Q. You only knew what you read in the army times -- Stars and Stripes?
- A. We didn't get that, if we did it didn't make our circulation. We were just about completely cut off, other than what we got in letters.
- Q. You said you extended for a period of time.
- A. Yes, I got out before Christmas Dec. 16, 1969 and because Christmas was coming out of people were getting to go home just 11 months and 10 days. So I would have got home the first week of December. But I went ahead and extended the minimum amount of time, 19 days, to get out early and it ended up I had 13 months and 7 or 14 days.
- Q. When you came back you went straight out of the Army.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you come back to Seattle?
- A. Yes, Lewis.
- Q. OK. So you're back in the country, you've been back a day or two and you're headed home. Did you have any trouble readjusting to being back in the states?
- A. Yes. I'd been home about 3 days and I went to Huntington and walked in a bar and three people wanted to start a fight with me because I had short hair.
- Q. Do you think there should have been some kind of a transition period. Of course everybody was in such a hurry to get home, do you think it would have been better if they'd held them a week?
- A. Not in the army. I have, I don't know how many friends that didn't extend came back to the U.S. Regular Army and some of them were E 5's, E 6's and all of them were busted to E 2's or E3's before they were out.

But yes, as far as adjusting, I'd have never, not that I'm fully adjusted! If I hadn't had that time that I came back to school after I got out, I got out in Feb. of 1971 and started school that summer. I was living over here and I was working in Ashland at Armaco, second shift 3-11, I'd go to school, I had an 8:00 class and a 10:00 clock class. I'd leave here at 12 or 12:15, drive to Ashland, work my shift, and then come back here at one or 2 in the morning. I did that that summer. After that I got layed off and I continued going to school. If it hadn't been for that period of time going to school until December of 1973, I don't know where I'd be.

- Q. We were talking about the treatment, how did people treat you when you came back, you said they treated you different.
- A. Sure, like I was a baby killer or something. The people that you were close to, that you knew, when you left, you come back and they say "you're" different, not the same person or they really don't want to be around you. It's not like it used to be.
- Q. When you came back to Morehead, what was your major, did you go back to the same thing.
- A. Well I was going to go back into the Political Science field and I looked at the hours I had and realized that I had to take Dr. Huang for 6 more hours and he and I had had a run in a couple of years before and I decided that I would change my major because of that and I finished Political Science as a minor and took sociology _____.
- Q. I know. I've said this before, he's the one that put me in the army. When you came back to Morehead, how about on campus here, I know you've seen the film probably of all these protests on all the college campuses. Was there any of that going on here.
- A. After I'd been back a year, I learned that there had been some kind of a major protest here during the time that I was over there. And I didn't know anything about it. But when I was here there wasn't. I learned that the ROTC building I think had been burned at UK and I learned that here they'd had some kind of major protest and they'd flown the ROTC in and had them up here at the football stadium and that they'd completely closed Morehead, they weren't letting any information in or out. And I couldn't believe that something like that would happen here in America.
- Q. You've already answered my next question, if you thought our involvement was a mistake. Why did we loose, if you think we lost?
- A. We lost _____.
- Q. Some people say we didn't loose the war we just quit.
- A. They surely weren't Vietnam Veterans! I don't know what part of Canada they were in at that time, but they're not Vietnam Veterans if they said that.
- Q. Did you join any Veterans organizations when you came back?
- A. I joined the VFW but I didn't participate. I was a card member I think for 2 or 3 years before _____. I didn't join the legion simply because there wasn't any legions close to where I live. I still go to the VFW, I'm a lifetime member, just recently. I know the people, I feel comfortable out there but I go out there about 3 times a year. It's just that I don't really participate in clubs that much. I just go out every now and then. When it rains and my legs hurt, I go out there!
- Q. You don't have any shrapnel in them do you?

- A. I've got shrapnel in both legs. I got hit on a mission, but I didn't get a purple heart, I guess there wasn't enough blood.
- Q. There wasn't any kind of Veterans or organizations here on campus?
- A. There was, I was a charter member of the Sigma Ki Alpha. While I was gone they went National Delta Tau Delta. So when I got back I didn't even join that fraternity, I was a loner, I didn't join anything, vets club or anything. There was one here, but I was a loner. I lived by myself, I did everything by myself. If I took a notion to walk from class one day get in my car and go to Florida, I'd do it. I wasn't a joiner.
- Q. What do you think about the security of the National today, as far as the volunteer army is concerned. Do you think that we are fairly safe, if we had to depend on a volunteer army or do you think that we should reinstate the draft?
- A. I'm a little older and I've changed quite a bit since I've started teaching. I think young people today -- there's a generation gap. I've been back from Vietnam 13 years and there's a generation after Vietnam that's very patriotic and I feel like if we were involved in a war of some sort you'd have several people that would volunteer. But as far as depending on the volunteer army, we have now, everybody better have a gun in their closet and be ready because they're going to be on our doorstep pretty quick!
- Q. Well, do you think that most of the volunteer army today have volunteered for economic reasons?
- A. There was a time that I thought about going back into the service and I hated the army. I'd have to be totally destitute before I'd even consider it. Signing anything like that. It's like signing your life away you don't own it. You're like a slave.
- Q. Do you see any parallel today in Lebanon and El Salvador with Vietnam, getting into the same type situation?
- A. Well, were-in-a situation where I think if you had a draft now its going to escalate that situation. If you had a draft you'd see the type protest you had back in the 60's. I don't think, because of Vietnam that that will happen, because of Vietnam I don't think Congress or the President is going to let it escalate, that is if there's news coverage and people know what's going on.
- Q. Do you think we have any business in Lebanon?
- A. Will, do we have any business in all the places that we are right now? I don't know. I was very liberal a couple of years ago, may be I'm more conservative now, but I don't believe we should be in North Panama Canal. Yes, we have to be somewhere, now if were going to have fighting troops staying there I don't think we should have silly no-fire zones or whatever. I think that they should be allowed to if they're fired upon to fire back.

- Q. About like the marines just setting there in the instance of the barracks being blown up where the guards didn't even have their guns loaded, it was silly.
- A. We had several similar incidents. I almost lost a strip. I was on guard one night and I opened up what I thought was a fellow crawling under the wire with a satchel charge. But if there hadn't been anyone there or a body hadn't been found the next day, I'd have been in serious trouble. It was very scary.
- Q. I know in bunker guard it is.
- A. That's the same thing in Lebanon, if they can't shoot back then they shouldn't be there. But, being an average American citizen now, I don't really know what's going on over there.
- Q. That brings up the point the so called invasion of Grenada where President Reagan kept the news out. What do you think about that, did he do the right thing?
- A. Why no. If you're going to operate in a vacuum, why are we fighting communism over there?
- Q. So as far as you're concerned the public should know, not only has the right, but should know everything that's going on?
- A. Should know what's going on as long as it doesn't interfere with security. There's a limit, but to totally restrict all the reporters and all coverage, it makes you wonder.
- Q. That's one of the problems now. Anything that comes up they holler national security, national security, everything can't be in the interest of national security.
- A. That's just about like body count. You have to have two arms to count as a body or is each arm one body!
- Q. When did you get your degree from Morehead?
- A. I got my A.B. and I finished the requirements in December of 1973 so I didn't actually get it until May of 1974. I continued to take courses at night on the GI bill and I just recently completed my masters.
- Q. Your Masters in Education?
- A. Yes, I worked for the state for 7½ years and the particular branch I was in reorganized, I was in a field position in accounting and they moved these positions to Frankfort. So, I had an option of going to Frankfort and taking another job and transferring over there or trying to transfer or taking a lay off, so I tried to transfer to another position and found out that your good friends let you down and ended up taking a lay off. As a result I went back to school and got a Masters in secondary education and was able to get a teaching position, so we've gone through a big change.

- Q. You've just began teaching?
- A. Yes, this is my first year. You know, just starting all over again.
- Q. I know what you mean. One of the questions we do ask is if people thought their college degree helped them in getting a job when they came back.
- A. Well, the position I had at state required a college degree and my degree was in political sciences and sociology. So I was working in my field, government and it was a good job. When I came back and was able to pick up a teaching certificate, (I was working at a new position.) So yes, it has. I don't know what I'd be doing, I couldn't draw unemployment and I don't know what I could do right now, if I didn't have both degrees.
- Q. Do you think you got a fairly good education here at Morehead.
- A. Yes, I think so. I think you could get as much as you wanted from Morehead, it's just what you put into it.
- Q. I think that's true.
- A. If you're a poor old country boy you can't expect a whole lot.
- Q. One of the reasons for this project, some day Dr. Hanrahan would like to see some kind of memorial in the form of a plaque hung in the student center or a section set aside in the library for display of the Vietnam Veterans. For instance, maybe they could donate a souvenir set up a permanent section of the library. Would you like to see something like that.
- A. No, it over. Forget about it.
- Q.
- A. Let dead dogs lie.
- Q. I know one of the answers we got, he said he's like to see it but not if we had to ask for it. If the University would do it on their own, we shouldn't have to ask for it.
- A. It's over, you don't get a wedding gift. Ten years after the wedding. It's over, just history.

